

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011

Present: Ald. Schnipper (Chairman), Lennon, Albright, Salvucci, Gentile, Crossley, Danberg, and Lappin

Also present: Ald. Fuller and Yates

City staff present: Lou Taverna (City Engineer), Fred Russell (Director of Utilities), David Turocy (Commissioner of Public Works), and Robert Rooney (Chief Operating Officer)

#158-11 NATIONAL GRID petition for a grant of location to install and maintain 150' ± of 4" gas main in MELINA ROAD from the existing 8" gas main in Parker Street easterly to 14 Melina Road. (Ward 8) [04/27/11 @ 2:29 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0 (Gentile and Lennon not voting)**

NOTE: Dennis Regan, National Grid Permit Representative, presented the petition to the Committee. The request is to extend a gas main from Parker Street down Melina Road to provide service to a newly constructed home at 14 Melina Road. The Department of Public Works has reviewed the petition and recommended approval with the standard conditions to be incorporated into the street opening permit. The public hearing was opened and no one spoke for or against the petition. National Grid sent letters to residents on Melina Road to determine if they were interested in gas service and did not receive any requests. Ald. Lappin moved approval, which carried unanimously.

#194-11 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR appointing DAVID TUROCY as Commissioner of Public Works, effective June 6, 2011, pursuant to §3-3 of the City Charter. (30 days 07/06/11) [06/03/10 @ 1:32 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

NOTE: David Turocy joined the Committee for discussion of his appointment as Public Works Commissioner. Mr. Turocy has been serving as the acting Commissioner of Public Works, since the previous Commissioner left in January of this year. Mr. Turocy provided a resume, which was attached to the agenda. The Chair stated that she is delighted with the appointment. Chairman Schnipper is looking forward to Mr. Turocy's innovative approach and hard work. Ald. Albright, Lennon, and Danberg added their appreciation of Mr. Turocy's quick and thorough response to citizens and Aldermen. Mr. Turocy is always willing to go above and beyond to help citizens. Ald. Salvucci moved approval, which carried unanimously. The Committee congratulated Mr. Turocy on his appointment and pointed out that there are many changes expected in the Department of Public Works in the near future making it an exciting time to be Commissioner of Public Works.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#190-11 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting authorization to enter into an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Town of Needham detailing Needham's obligation to fund half of the construction contract costs associated with structural repairs to the jointly owned Nahanton Street–Kendrick Street Bridge. [05-31-11 @2:16 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

NOTE: City Engineer Lou Taverna and Commissioner of Public Works David Turocy reviewed the request to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Needham. The City and the Town of Needham jointly own the Nahanton Street–Kendrick Street Bridge, which was identified by the State as needing structural repairs. The bridge connects Newton at Nahanton Street to Needham at Kendrick Street and spans the Charles River. The design process for the bridge is complete and in order to proceed to the construction phase the City needs to enter into the inter-municipal contract. The City and Town of Needham will each pay 50% of the cost of the structural repair and the repaving of the bridge deck. The City of Newton's portion of the cost is being funded through Chapter 90 funds. The City has received a favorable bid of \$857,954.

The Newton – Needham Inter-Municipal Agreement was attached to the Committee agenda for review before the meeting. The City's Law Department prepared the agreement and it details Needham's obligation to pay Newton half of the construction contract costs. The City will make monthly payments to the contractor and invoice Needham monthly for 50% of the contractor's invoice. The Town of Needham has approved the agreement. The Public Works Department would like to begin the construction project this summer and complete it well before the State begins its Add A-Lane Project on Route 128, as there is some expectation that there will be an increase in traffic on the bridge once the State begins construction.

There is no plan to widen the bridge or provide sidewalks on the bridge. There is no requirement that the bridge have bike lanes, as it is not a TIP Project. The project is to repair the underneath of the bridge and repave the surface. The Newton Public Works Department will take the lead on the construction administration. An engineering consultant with individual contracts with Newton and Needham will provide oversight for the construction.

Ald. Salvucci moved approval of the item, which carried unanimously.

#172-11 **ALD. CROSSLEY, FULLER AND SCHNIPPER** requesting discussion with the Utilities Division of the Public Works Department regarding the identification of storm water inflow connections to the sewer system, so as to begin the process of systematically eliminating such illegal connections, including notifications to property owners, educational materials, requirements for corrective actions and technical and financial assistance that may be available from the City in order to facilitate removal of inflow connections. [05/26/11 @3:33 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 8-0**

NOTE: Commissioner of Public Works David Turocy and Utilities Director Fred Russell provided the Committee with details related to illegal inflow connections to the City sewer system. The City has replaced 56% of the meters in the City and discovered 609 illegal connections during its 11,004 inspections. The illegal connections were not in concentrated areas but the City has not inspected some of the areas prone to flooding.

Ald. Crossley explained that the item was docketed to inform the Aldermen about the administration's planned program targeting illegal sewer connection. It would be helpful for the Aldermen to be aware of the new program to improve response to citizens with illegal connections. The department of Public Works provided the attached documents, which provide a description of the program, a sample letter to residents who have been identified as having an illegal connection, and a brochure describing what an illegal connection is and why it is important that an illegal connection be disconnected from the sewer system. The City will provide residents with generic solutions to correct illegal connections and will help people with a financial hardship to address the issue. Property owners have a year to address the situation before any fine is levied. The fine will be \$300 per day until the problem is resolved. Mr. Russell added that most of the connections will be an easy solution and will cost approximately \$5,000 if a dry well is needed.

The Public Works Department is ready to send the letter to a small pool of 50 homeowners with illegal connections. The department would like to start small in order to determine what type of reaction is likely from the homeowners and how best to help homeowners deal with the situation. Chief Operating Officer Robert Rooney stated that affordability is a real concern and that is one of the reasons the Department of Public Works is beginning with 50 letters. It will help the City determine the magnitude of the cost to property owners. Ald. Lappin stated that the previous administration had offered to pay for a portion of the cost to rectify an illegal connection. The Commissioner explained that the City is unable to help property owners defer the cost at this time.

Ald. Crossley pointed out that people find money when they have to address something. The disconnection illegal sewer hookups protect the City's water quality and sewer system. The City needs to be serious about the illegal connections but not heartless; however, the program needs to have teeth to encourage people to disconnect. Property owners with illegal connections need to work with the City to come up with a solution.

Ald. Gentile asked how the Public Works Department is going to deal with residents who say they have disconnected and have not. Commissioner Turocy responded that there would be re-inspection of properties identified as having illegal connections. Ald. Fuller added that the Executive Department is beginning to look at possible legislation requiring illegal connections to be addressed when a property is sold.

Ald. Lappin would like further information on how the City is going to help people with a financial hardship and how a financial hardship is determined. Ald. Crossley did some research on what qualifies a determination of financial hardship. Most people are not going to qualify for help. If people do qualify and the City cannot help the person immediately, they

would qualify for a waiver from the fines until the City could help defray the costs. The Chair believes that the Department of Public Works needs to send out the 50 letters to get a sense of what the problems are and how to address them.

The Public Works Department will send out the 50 letters in the next few weeks. The Committee requested an update from the Public Works Commissioner and Director of Utilities when there was additional information to share with the Committee. Ald. Crossley moved hold on the item, which carried unanimously.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#309-10(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of six hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$620,000) from the Water Fund to the Sewer Fund to restore the full transfer from the Water Fund to the Sewer Fund that was reduced to address a projected shortfall in the Water Fund, which was approved by the Board of Aldermen on November 15, 2010. [04/25/11 @ 5:55 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0-1 (Crossley abstaining, Lappin not voting)**

NOTE: The Mayor is requesting approval of a transfer of \$620,000 from the Water Fund to the Sewer Fund to avoid any impact on the City's Free Cash position. There is an annual transfer of funds from the Water Fund to the Sewer Fund to reimburse the sewer fund, as all of the administrative costs related to managing the enterprise funds are paid through the Sewer Fund. In November of 2010, The Board of Aldermen approved adjustments to the Water and Sewer Fund budgets to address shortfalls in the Water Fund, which included a reduction of the annual transfer from \$920,000 to \$300,000. It is expected that there will be a \$300,000 deficit in the Sewer Fund and a \$900,000 deficit in the Water Fund. However, the Water Fund has \$1.7 million in reserve funds to address the deficits.

Commissioner Turocy provided the attached breakdown of the FY11 year-end Sewer and Water Fund projections and the projected impact of the \$620,000 transfer from the Water Fund to the Sewer Fund. After the funds are transferred, there would be an estimated \$315,749 remaining in the Water Fund at the start of FY12 and \$316,931 in the Sewer Fund at the start of FY12.

Committee members were concerned with the balance in both funds at the start of FY12 and asked if there is any plan to grow the reserves in both funds. The Commissioner of Public Works anticipates taking in an additional \$800,000 to the Sewer Fund this upcoming fiscal year. He also expects that the new water meters will have an impact on the number of abatements for water bills, which should increase the Water Fund.

Ald. Danberg moved approval, which carried unanimously.

#399-09(3) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that Board Order #399-09(2) be amended to include sewer extensions and sewer construction projects on Woodland Road, Old Farm Road and other applicable sewer projects. [05-31-11 @ 2:16 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

NOTE: City Engineer Lou Taverna stated that there is \$160,000 remaining in the accounts for the Old Farm Sewer Project design money. Board Order #399-09(2) that was approved by the Board of Aldermen on April 20, 2010 was approved with the understanding that the funds would be used to complete design of the Old Farm Road Sewer Project. The City Engineer would like to use the remaining \$160,000 for projects on Woodland Road, Old Farm Road and other applicable sewer projects, which requires amendment to the Board Order.

Ald. Albright moved approval of the amendment as described in the Docket Item, which carried unanimously.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#89-09(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting Board Order #89-09 be amended by rescinding a balance of six hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$650,000) that remains authorized but unissued debt for bond authorization, which was to be used to purchase additional trash and recycling containers. [05-31-11 @2:16 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

NOTE: Commissioner of Public Works David Turocy stated that when the City began the automated trash program, \$2,560,000 was authorized for borrowing for the purchase of trash and recycling receptacles. The City received a favorable bid and did not bond to the full amount. There is a remaining \$650,000 in authorized but unissued debt that the Mayor is requesting be rescinded. The Public Works Department held on to the remaining authorized funds to ensure that the money would not be needed for more trash and recycling receptacles and now has determined the money is not necessary. The Committee voted in favor of a motion to approve the requested rescission of \$650,000 in authorized but unissued debt.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#367-10(A)(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that Board Order #367-10(A) be amended by rescinding the seventy five thousand dollar (\$75,000) bond authorization and appropriating seventy five thousand dollar (\$75,000) from FY11 Free Cash for the purpose of funding the site plan design work for modular classrooms. [05-31-11 @2:16 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

NOTE: The request is essentially a change in funding source from bonded indebtedness to FY11 Free Cash. The City does not like to bond for small design projects, preferring to fund them outright. Committee members were concerned that if the funding source were changed the School Department would get an additional \$75,000 beyond the \$5,000,000 that is available for the F.A. Day and the various modular classroom projects. Chief Operating Officer Robert Rooney assured the Committee that the School Department will only receive a total of \$5 million, which will include the \$75,000 from Free Cash. The Committee voted in favor of a motion to approve the change in funding source from bonded indebtedness to FY11 Free Cash.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#311-10(A1)(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that Board Order #311-10(A1) be amended by rescinding the one hundred thirty thousand dollar (\$130,000) bond authorization and appropriating one hundred twenty-five thousand forty-six dollars (\$125,046) from the Capital Stabilization Fund designated for Fire Station Renovations and four thousand nine hundred fifty-four dollars (\$4,954) from FY11 Free Cash for the purpose of funding architectural programming, schematic design, site and building testing for Station #3 (Willow Street) and Station #10 (Dedham Street). [05-31-11 @2:16 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

NOTE: The request is essentially a change in funding source from bonded indebtedness to the Capital Stabilization Fund and FY11 Free Cash. The City does not like to bond for small design projects and site testing, preferring to fund them outright. The Committee agreed that it made sense to change the funding source and voted in favor of a motion to approve.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#191-11 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount two million two hundred seventy-seven thousand dollars (\$2,277,000) from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding sewer capital projects. [05-31-11 2:17 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

NOTE: City Engineer Lou Taverna, Director of Utilities Fred Russell, and Commissioner of Public Works presented the request for a \$2,277,000 appropriation from bonded indebtedness to fund sewer projects detailed in the attached memo from the Commissioner of Public Works. The projects include sewer repairs at various locations throughout the City and sewer extensions in the Auburndale area. The projects are all included in the FY12 Capital Improvement Plan. Ald. Lappin moved approval, which carried unanimously.

#385-07 ALD. SCHNIPPER AND GENTILE updating the Public Facilities Committee on the progress of the Newton North High School Project. [11/21/07 @ 10:23 AM]

ACTION: **HELD 8-0**

NOTE: Ald. Gentile and Schnipper provided a very brief update. The old school is completely demolished. The project is a couple of weeks ahead of schedule in terms of the demolition of the old school. The whole project is expected to be completed sometime in the fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chairman

FY11 Year End Sewer and Water Projection With Actual Revenue Through April and Projected Revenue Through June

FY11 Year-End Sewer Fund Projection

Revenues

	Through May Est	Jun Projection	Total
60 Day Acc	(3,245,732)	0	(3,245,732)
User Charges*	23,493,240	1,749,838	25,243,078
Trans Water Fund	302,778	0	302,778
All Other Revenue	1,136,974	85,000	1,221,974
Total	21,687,260	1,834,838	23,522,098 A

**Refunds/Abatements included in 'User Charges' line item; Projection based on \$ received through Apr and projected net billings for May-Jun period*

Expenses

FY11 Projected YE Spending	\$23,685,197
FY11 Revised YE Expense Target	\$23,685,197 B

Projected YE Surplus/(Deficit) (163,098) A-B

Anticipated Capital Projects to be Carried Forward into FY12

Quinobequin PS Pump #4 replacement (92,000)

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Brown and Caldwell contract (47,971)

Subtotal (303,069)

FY11 Fund Balance Available for Appropriation 0

Projected FY12 Balance Available for Appropriation (303,069)

FY11 Year-End Water Fund Projection**Revenues**

	Through May Est	Jun Projection	Total
60 Day Acc	(1,709,194)	0	(1,709,194)
User Charges*	14,798,604	1,263,099	16,061,703
Trans Water Fund	0	0	0
All Other Revenue	1,185,321	75,000	1,260,321
Total	14,274,731	1,338,099	15,612,830 A

*Refunds/Abatements included in 'User Charges' line item; Projection based on \$ received through Apr and projected net billings for May-Jun period

Expenses

FY11 Projected YE Spending	\$16,222,420
FY11 Revised YE Expense Target	\$16,222,420 B

Projected YE Surplus/(Deficit)

Anticipated Capital Projects to be Carried Forward into FY12

SCADA upgrade (170,000)

CDM - hydraulic model upgrade (64,000)

Subtotal (843,590)

FY11 Fund Balance Available for Appropriation 1,779,339

Projected FY12 Balance Available for Appropriation \$935,749

Projected Impact of Proposed \$620K Transfer From Water to Sewer Fund

Water - Projected FY12 Balance Available for Appropriation	\$935,749
Proposed \$620K Transfer from Water to Sewer Fund	(620,000)
Subtotal - Revised FY12 Balance	\$315,749
Sewer - Projected FY12 Balance Available for Appropriation	(\$303,069)
Proposed \$620K Transfer from Water to Sewer Fund	620,000
Subtotal - Revised FY12 Balance	\$316,931



SETTI D. WARREN
MAYOR

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Office of the Mayor

#191-11

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May 31, 2011

Honorable Board of Aldermen
Newton City Hall
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Newton, MA 02459

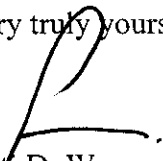
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write to request that your Honorable Board docket for consideration a request to authorize the appropriation of up to \$2,277,000 and authorize a general obligation borrowing of an equal amount for the purpose of funding the following sewer capital projects:

- Old Farm Road Sewer Improvements
- Aspen Ave/Hawthorne Ave/Studio Rd Sewer Extensions
- Quinobequin Road Sewer Relocation
- Gordon Road Sewer Repairs
- Newtonville Ave Sewer Repairs
- Wood End Road Sewer Repairs

I look forward to meeting with your Honorable Board to discuss these Capital Projects. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,


Seth D. Warren
Mayor

11 MAY 31 P 2:17
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA 02459

1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

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DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

#191-11

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449

To: Mayor Setti D. Warren

From: David Turocy, Interim Commissioner of Public Works *DT*

Via: Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer
Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer

Date: April 29, 2011

Subject: Proposed Sewer Fund Borrowing

The Department of Public Works respectfully requests that general obligation debt be extended for the following sewer capital projects:

1) Old Farm Road Sewer Improvements:

Old Farm Rd. Sewer Main Replacement, \$486,000
Old Farm Rd. Sewer Cleaning and Lining, \$186,000
Construction Services, \$115,000
Total = \$787,000

Project Description: The existing 10" diameter sewer main on Old Farm Road will be replaced with a larger 15" diameter sewer main. The existing sewer is undersized, causing sanitary sewer overflows during periods of heavy rain storms. This upsizing will mitigate these overflows. The sewers tributary to the Old Farm Road sewer will be cleaned and lined.

2) Aspen Ave/Hawthorne Ave /Studio Rd Sewer Extensions:

Construction, \$700,000
Design and Construction Services, \$100,000
Total = \$800,000

Project Description: The Department Public Works has received petitions from the owners on Aspen Ave, Hawthorne Ave, and Studio Road to connect to the City's sewer main. The houses currently are on septic systems, located in the rear yards. The owners recognizes that, should they ever wish to sell the houses, the septic systems would probably not pass a Title 5 sewer inspection, and they would be forced to reconstruct the septic system, or connect to the City's sewer system. When the design is complete, Public Works would petition the Board of Aldermen to assess sewer betterments on properties on these roads, per ordinance section 29-71 and 29-72.

3) Quinobequin Road Sewer Relocation:

\$200,000

Project Description: The sewer overflow pipe from the Quinobequin Rd sewer headworks discharges into an existing sewer manhole in Quinobequin Rd (in front of #91 Quinobequin Rd). The sewer service from #91 also discharges into the same sewer manhole. During periods of

heavy rain, this overflow pipe fills the sewer manhole, causing sewer back-ups into the house at #91. The sewer overflow pipe will be extended further downstream on Quinobequin Rd, beyond the last house before the I-95 bridge, in order to mitigate sewer surcharges.

4) Gordon Road Sewer Repairs:

\$170,000

Project Description: A portion of the existing sewer main on Gordon Road is crushed and has collapsed. This sewer main will be replaced with a new sewer main, from manhole to manhole, in its place. The existing drain pipe is directly above the sewer main, and will also be removed and replaced.

5) Newtonville Ave Sewer Repairs:

\$160,000

Project Description: A portion of the existing sewer main on Newtonville Ave east of Harvard Street is crushed and has collapsed. This sewer main will be replaced with a new sewer main, from manhole to manhole, in its place.

6) Wood End Rd Sewer Repairs:

\$160,000

Project Description: A portion of the existing sewer main on Wood End Rd is crushed and has collapsed. This sewer main will be replaced with a new sewer main, from manhole to manhole, in its place.

Total Construction Debt Capital Request: \$2,277,000

Please let me know if you have any questions.